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(By Sarojini Naidu)

Akbar the Great Mogul

(By Lajpat Rai)

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ATTENTION

Members and sympathizers of the India Home Rule League will please note that owing to the about paid regulations it will be impossible for us to send copies of Young India to those who have not paid. Therefore, we urge our readers to send us their subscription immediately if they want to keep in touch with this growing movement. Please see page 21.

INDIA HOME RULE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

- (1) Aims and Objects
- (a) To support the Home Rule movement in India.
- (b) To co-operate with the political organizations in India and in England.
- (c) To further friendly intercourse between India and America.

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Open to all who sympathize with its objects.
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OFFICIAL ORGAN — "YOUNG INDIA"

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YOUNG INDIA

JULY, 1918

Vol. I



No. 7

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Ourselves; the League and Young India—

With the June number, Young India completed the first six months of its life. On July 1st, the India Home Rule League will be an infant of about eight months old. The progress which we have made during this period is fairly encouraging, considering the handicaps under which we had to start and carry on our work. Our membership stands at 455, of which 35 are active members, who have paid \$10.00 each. During this period we received \$1,930.12 from membership dues, donations and subscriptions, and spent \$1,564.12 on the office and the magazine.

The war conditions have prevented us from carrying on an active propaganda. We have not done practically any publicity work. The restrictions on liberty of speech imposed by the war atmosphere are even more stringent in our case. Rejecting the proposition of the United States Government, we consider it, both morally and legally incumbent on us, to do nothing that may even remotely be construed as embarrassing to the administration or detrimental to the people. On principle, we stand with the United States and the Allies. These war aims, as fully explained and expounded by President Wilson, are liberal, democratic and humanitarian. We have no sympathy whatsoever, with the Central Powers. In large numbers, our people are fighting for and with the Allies. Several of our boys are now in the United States Army, and naturally we wish success and safety for them. We have, therefore, practically suspended all active propaganda in connection with the League.

But the United States press is showing signs of greater interest in Indian affairs and something like an organized propaganda seems to be coming on against our cause, which makes it all the more obligatory on us to keep up our magazine and notice the articles that attack or belittle the India Home Rule movement. Besides, we must keep our own people and sympathizers in this country informed on how the movement is picking up in England and in India and also what India is doing for Great Britain in connection with the war. Our programme is mainly educational and includes the dissemination of Indian culture in its different aspects and phases. We must have an organ of our own for the education of our members.

But for the war, and the handicaps which it imposes on our activities, our secret membership and an increased circulation of the magazine would have

that there had been a few rumors of *disobedience* among the Hindus, but that in such instances it had been promptly put down and the cause of the disrupted machinery tended to quiet supplied by German agents.

Letter for the Editor.—A printed letter (not marked private or confidential) is being mailed by the American Asiatic Association, to prominent Americans in the city of New York. We do not know what the Association means by the representative put as stated by us. We hope "holdings" does not involve occupying, possessing or dominating.

Dear Reader: To your request, "Why the civilized world is not" let us answer:

"Because today the goal of a *Civilized Asia* through breaking Russia threatens the safety of American homes. There is no to policy and the *Tamers* of *United Empire*—India is obtained. To rule Asia by the *Asia* is a question not of time but of *intelligence*—in your mind and ours."

The Importance of Knowledge bearing on Asia to Americans.—In recommending the American monthly, "Asia," to Americans, Col. Roosevelt remarks:

"This country needs a strong public opinion, well informed on Eastern affairs. We cannot afford to ignore any new obligation that will spring from this war. To get a permanent peace, of the kind worth having, it is necessary that we be informed concerning, and clearly interested in, the development, policies, the conditions, and the national character of the great peoples of the world, whose aims for the future will inevitably affect our military and be considered by us. The Orient is certain to be at center of international prominence. It is gradually to be cleared that the stars be made good and that we have a clear-cut policy in reference thereto. Every nation should be obliged to lead up our relations in close and permanent friendship, with both Japan and China."

While these words of Col. Roosevelt are true and important, it should be borne in mind that the best sources of information on the aspirations of the Asiatic peoples are the Asiatic peoples themselves. We need to know what Asiatics themselves think and want, and how they feel. It is not enough for western people to know Asia through European and American eyes. Such knowledge cannot be a basis for proper appreciation of the problems of Asia. We wish the Americans to know more of the Asia of the Asiatics as distinguished from the Asia of the Europeans.

A Campaign of Misrepresentation.—It appears that an organized campaign of misrepresentation about India's future in Home Rule is being carried on in the American press. We have already noticed two such articles in our previous numbers. We give extracts from a third which appeared in the "Detroit Free Press," in its issue of June 1, 1918:

SELF GOVERNMENT HOPELESS IN INDIA

By C. SPENCER SMITH

Special Correspondent of The Detroit Free Press.

"Why cannot India have home rule? How it is that Britain with all her democratic ideals refuses to permit self-government to a country of 315,000,000 inhabitants?"

I have traveled throughout India and for a good many years was in daily intimate touch with her people, talking with them as their own people. The village *darbar* is the center on which revolve all the vital events of the vast Indian nation. In thousands of Indian villages 10-50 the village *darbar* is the only court in the community where men meet to settle, and so many cases lie before the mouth of a group of villages, spread over its area as villages in Texas, through which he makes a journey pilgrimage, and is assured of a generous welcome, whenever he fails to play his trade. He represents the village that as a country of 315,000,000 people upwards of 30,000,000 can number such men.

That is not reason why India cannot yet have home rule. Education in India is a long, slow and painful process. The bulk of the people regard learning with suspicion and prejudice. For generations the great masses of the Indian have been illiterate and know of no the "common people." The play of western education was thrown open in 1854, when Lord Dalhousie was Lord of India in the supreme council of India, but the results

of the Brahmins has in still appeared in the fact that in 34 years of effort we have only been able to raise 2 per cent. of the people to literacy.

Among women whose education with the same persistence should be so potent, the percentage of the illiterate is enormous. For centuries the only women in India who were allowed to read or write were the girls who were destined to a life of seclusion in the temples.

About 120 different languages are spoken in India, and each divides into many dialects, which for the most part are unintelligible beyond the limits of the area in which they are spoken. An edition of about 150 of these vernaculars shows that 18 different tongues are spoken by as many millions of people numbering from 5,000 to 10,000, ten others by groups numbering from 10,000 to 15,000, another 10 by groups numbering from 15,000 to 20,000, and still another 10 by groups by groups numbering from 20,000 to 25,000, and so on.

The special correspondent of the said paper, who claims to have "traveled" throughout India for a good many years in daily intimate touch with her people, talking with them in their own tongue, has not told his readers the name of that "tongue" in which he talked. Or are we to presume that he is a master of all the "120 languages" which are spoken there? It is in fact that the American was in "daily intimate touch with India's people" so as to be fully conversant with their conditions, "talking to them in their own tongue," that what value it is to be attached to his statement that the multiplicity of languages is an "insuperable barrier" to Home Rule in India. And what about the multiplicity of languages in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia? Has it ever occurred to anyone to deny that countries the right of self-government because so many different languages or different dialects are spoken in different parts of the same country?

The American (?) correspondent deserves praise for the wonderful discovery about the "barrier." But we take the liberty to say that the whole thing is false, absolutely and splendidly false. There is hardly a village in India, much less a group of villages covering an area equal to Texas, which does not contain people who can read and write their own vernacular. If it were true, it would be the strangest indictment of the present system of government. This correspondent does not even know that there is an official "barrier," known as the *Persian*, attached to every village in India, to keep the village records in order, except that sometimes when the villages are very small hamlets, this official scribe has to work for two or three villages.

But the most wonderful achievement of this correspondent is the discovery that it is "the weakness of the Brahmins" that is responsible for lack of literacy and education in India. Every intelligent man knows that the responsibility for that lack does not lie upon the Brahmins. It lies upon the British Government that rules the country. The truth is, many of the men who have protested most earnestly against the Government's policy of keeping the people in ignorance and who have pleaded most consistently with the Government to give the people schools and education, have been Brahmins.

The correspondent's statement that for centuries "the only women who were allowed to read and write" were the married women, is a wicked lie.

It would have been relevant for this correspondent to inform his readers as to what took him to India. His statements are hardly a credit to his veracity.

If this is the knowledge which the Americans are going to have of Asia, then all we can say is that we are sorry for them.

After we had written the above, we discovered that the "Special Correspondent of the 'Detroit Free Press'" is a British writer on the staff of the *Tory Times* in England. An article of his, about the same in language and substance, has appeared in "The Daily Express," London.

nothing except his greed and avarice, killed a big group and observed the powerful Rajput Empire by those during. His chief administration was in connection for his power as his military administration. His chief system was in all essential respects the same as it is of the present regime in India under the British. He conceived avarice dominated the basis of his society. In his private life, he was a slave and a slave. His respect for women was so well known that no more than one woman accompanied him, except from the death of a woman by dividing his enormous riches. His respect for father other than his own state of avarice caused him the death of his first, Anurag. A Mohammedan historian has left in his record, that he made it a rule that whenever his followers went plundering they should do no harm to women, the theft of land or any one's treasure.

With reference to his methods of warfare and subduing, opinions differ. European books, that "Akbar" must not be judged by 20th century warfare standards. It was according to the ethics of his age and making a brave and chivalrous man. He was fighting a desperate battle against conservative aids and he could expect little mercy from his foes had he fallen into their clutches. He was a dark and stoical man. He was never deliberately and maliciously cruel. To respect women, respect and reverence, to stay peace-making slaughter after a battle, to release and disarm with honor captured officers and men—these are surely no light virtues.

The book under review is an extremely interesting monograph, written by a man who has the true flavor of a historian and a scholar. Mr. Barrow is a thoroughly first class world traveler and a thoroughly first-class scholar. His studies of the different aspects of Indian history are sharp, fair and illuminating. We can confidently recommend his service to all those desirous of having a reliable knowledge of Indian history.

As the Fourth Part—By H. G. Wells, the Macmillan Company, New York. Price \$1.25.

Mr. Wells' latest book is a vigorous and bold plea for a League of Nations. It is divided into "National Day" and "The League of Nations". It is a book of the following observations relating to India and Nepal.

In June the International Co. Hongkong, Green & Co., and the Oxford University Press have sent us quite a few books for month.

"Finally the time is drawing near, when the European and the Indian of India will talk on the same things as the British. There is also an old world. The one we are to fight for the time being is not, but the sovereignty, the Canadian and the American, will be your common and equal partners." Would it not be wise to secure that position in the discussion before the time in which it is asked people think with eyes?"

Mr. Wells gives attention to some political books, which deserve to be well digested and assimilated in a well-balanced method. We give a few examples:

"Nothing is left the world so straightforward as the half-baked systems of the great to make peace." (Page 21)

"Most people have heard the clear statements that exist between Imperialism and Internationalism, they have not begun to explore the real implications of the League of Nations—they have not begun to explore that peace has no price." (Page 22)

"We are not disappointed because we are disappointed." (Page 23)

"We cannot see these days of black or white play the part of international friends of England."

"Democracy is still clearly an uncertain, it is a quest, it is not a goal, the most part of methods are still in search."

"And Indian political institutions cannot be a later Roman or later Greek democracy to be a tragedy."

The book is an illuminating exposition of the coming Internationalism which should not remain a distant peace. Mr. Wells is at his best in discussing the League of Nations and modern conditions. His most brilliant criticism is directed against the party leaders of the English Parliament. No student of current politics can afford to neglect this book.

The End of the Part—By Walter E. Weyler, the Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$1.25.

One of the great books on war and the problems that have arisen out of war. The author is a bold, brilliant, frank, scrupulously honest and clear. The book is distinguished by high political ideas and the service is to be read by every friend of democratic methods of government.

The Secret Side—By Ernest Poole, Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$1.25.

A masterly picture of the problems of the modern world, drawn with a scholarly mastery of a great artist.

Green & Co., and the Oxford University Press. The list will be published next month.

The Reason, Why? You Should Subscribe to YOUNG INDIA

BECAUSE:

"The magazine in its every issue carries a message that is so much of importance to all Hindus and especially to those who are utterly ignorant of the Indian situation."

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"It is a very fine spirited and instructive little magazine. I wish we could get it into all the libraries here. People will then know the truth about India."

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"Young India is a success. I congratulate you upon your efforts."

What our subscribers say, we believe to be true.

To all those who are interested in making the world safe for democracy, we are always ready to give an opportunity to know more about India. It is a part of the world where one-fifth of the human race lives.

We supply, through correspondence, information from reliable sources, which is not available to the general public. This information can also be had from the pages of our "little magazine," Young India.

It costs \$1.50 a year and can be mailed any month.

It can also be secured from any big book store in the city of New York or from any Hindus living in the leading cities of the United States.

N. S. HARDIKER

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